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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to trade and economic cooperation

Draft Decision

Decision on the establishment and terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

At its 75th meeting, the Executive Committee, with reference to paragraphs 17, 18 and 31(g) of Commission Decision A(65) on the outcome of the Review of the 2005 reform of ECE and paragraph 24 of the Chairman's conclusions of the Executive Committee meeting on 6 February 2014, agrees to establish an ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, to replace the former Trade Committee. The terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards are contained in the annex.

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Annex

Terms of Reference

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (hereinafter referred to as the "Steering Committee") is an intergovernmental body that oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

2. Draft the programme of work on trade capacity and standards and review and endorse the work plans of WP.6 and WP.7, and recommend these to the Executive Committee for approval.

3. Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extra-budgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations. Capacity building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided in accordance with point 18(a) of Commission Decision A(65).

4. Liaise and coordinate its work with other UNECE committees and relevant subsidiary bodies, in particular the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and coordinate its work with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations and stakeholders and international standards-setting organizations in order to achieve synergies and to avoid possible overlap and duplication.

5. Meet once a year for a maximum of 1½ days in a session that is open to all relevant international organizations and other stakeholders and that shall be held back-to-back with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and, as feasible, with the annual session of either WP.6 or WP.7.

6. Elect its own Bureau, which includes the Chairs of WP.6 and WP.7 as *ex officio* members.

7. Report to the Executive Committee.

8. Operate under the ECE Rules of Procedure and the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies, as agreed in Commission Decision A(65).